

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 541

By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend O. James "Jim" Lighthizer for his meritorious service in the preservation of Civil War battlefields.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who, through their extraordinary efforts, have become leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is O. James "Jim" Lighthizer, who has promoted and funded battlefield preservation efforts across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lighthizer was named president of the Civil War Preservation Trust in 1999, an organization created from the merger of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Civil War Trust; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of Mr. Lighthizer, the Civil War Preservation Trust was renamed in 2011 to the Civil War Trust and again in 2018 to the American Battlefield Trust; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as president of the American Battlefield Trust, approximately \$450 million was raised for battlefield preservation across twenty-four states; and

WHEREAS, he has been responsible for coordinating private fundraising efforts and grants from federal agencies to support the preservation of Civil War battlefields across the State of Tennessee, including those in Shiloh, Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, Franklin, Knoxville, and Parker's Crossroads; and

WHEREAS, described as a miracle, Mr. Lighthizer sparked a successful national recovery effort in Franklin that resulted in the reclamation of an 1864 battlefield, which had been developed into office buildings, retail stores, restaurants, and a golf course; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lighthizer is the proud recipient of several awards and commendations honoring his long-standing commitment to battlefield preservation, including the National Humanities Medal, which he received at a White House ceremony on January 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is indebted to Mr. Lighthizer for his noble precepts of public service and extraordinary impact on the preservation of Civil War battlefield sites across the State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend O. James "Jim" Lighthizer for his years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee and the preservation of Civil War battlefields and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.